Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
1.772
A2Su62

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

April 10, 1947

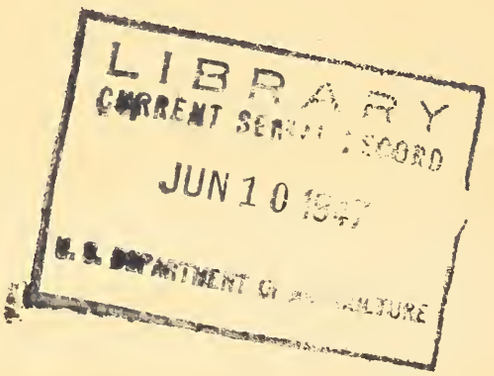
********** SUPPLEMENT NO. 3 **********

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

in the

MEXICAN OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

With Supplementary Information
on United States Cooperation
in Control Measures, (prepared
January 28, 1947)



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of best available information but is subject to revision and amplification as new facts are obtained. Additional supplemental reports will be issued as significant developments occur.

Significant New Developments

Since March 11, 1947, when Supplement No. 2 of this series of reports was issued, several new developments in the foot-and-mouth disease situation in Mexico have occurred. They are:

A moderate increase in the size of the main quarantined zone and further spread of infection to points outside that zone.

A conference of Mexican and United States officials, to consider proposed expenses for foot-and-mouth disease eradication and to make fiscal recommendations.

The appointment of a director, co-director, and administrative board for supervising the eradication campaign and determining questions of policy.

Enactment, by Congress, of legislation that provides $9,000,000 as the share of the United States Government toward expenses of the campaign.

A report by the Secretary of Agriculture to Congress on the status of the eradication campaign, as of March 30, 1947.

The development of an organization for administering the campaign.

Tentative agreement on personnel and supplies.

Progress in the slaughter and burial of diseased animals.

Changes in Map of Outbreak

The map which accompanied Supplement No. 2 showed the general location of the areas in east-central Mexico where foot-and-mouth disease was reported to exist on February 22, 1947. The map appended to the present supplement shows the affected areas as reported up to April 8. A comparison of the two maps shows a moderate enlargement of the main quarantined zone between February 22 and April 8 and also several new small centers of infection. Foot-and-mouth disease virus now exists in 15 Mexican States, including the Federal District in which Mexico City is located.

Fiscal Recommendations Announced

On March 15 officials of Mexico and the United States agreed on recommendations for financing the joint campaign against foot-and-mouth disease. There followed an exchange of diplomatic notes between the two governments, which confirmed the agreement. On March 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a two-page press release announcing the recommendations, the following portions of which deal with estimated expenses:

"WHEREAS:

Mexico is incurring expenses for services, equipment, supplies, and personnel which are estimated to amount to $7,600,000 up to June 30, 1947, and will be responsible for indemnities to be paid for slaughter of hogs, sheep, and goats which

will amount to a sum of approximately $1,750,000, making a total Mexican contribution of $9,350,000 for this period;

IT IS RECOMMENDED:

1. That the United States contribution for this period should consist of expenses for equipment, supplies and personnel, etc., amounting to approximately $1,500,000, plus indemnities of $7,500,000 for cattle slaughtered, making a total of $9,000,000.

2. That any salvage recovered by Mexico from animals slaughtered during the campaign should be used in the joint campaign in addition to the services already rendered by Mexico.

And with regard to the continuation of the joint program for eradication of foot-and-mouth disease after July 1, 1947;

WHEREAS:

Mexico hopes to continue its expenditures at approximately the same rate as during the months of April-June 1947, but foresees that it will not be able to increase this rate of expenditure,

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED:

That, if a fully effective program of eradication is to be carried on during the succeeding 12 months, the United States Government be prepared to increase its rate of expenditure, the amount of such increase to be dependent on the total expenditures necessary for the period from July 1, 1947 to June 30, 1948."

Campaign Directors and Board Members Appointed

The Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission had recommended, on March 6, that the administrative headquarters of the foot-and-mouth disease campaign should be in charge of a director named by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Industry, and a co-director named by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture.

The Mexican appointee, as director, is Licenciado Oscar Flores, Mexico's Under Secretary of Agriculture for Livestock, and Chairman of the Mexican section of the Mexican-United States Agricultural Commission. ("Licenciado" in the foregoing name is a professional title signifying lawyer.)

The United States appointee, as co-director, is Dr. Maurice S. Shahan, research scientist and veterinarian of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. Shahan has been connected with the Bureau of Animal Industry since 1926, and has specialized in virus disease research since 1932. He is a native of Nebraska and a graduate of the Colorado A. & M. College.

In further conformity with the March 6 recommendations of the Commission, Secretary Anderson appointed the three United States members of the joint Administrative board to which the director and co-director will be responsible, and which will determine operating policies and procedures in the foot-and-mouth disease campaign. They are Dr. B.T. Simms, Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry; N.E.Dodd Under Secretary of Agriculture; and Don Stoops, Assistant Agricultural Attache, U. S. Embassy, Mexico City.

Board members named by the Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Industry are Dr. José Figueroa, Dr. Federico Rubio Lozano, and Ignacio de la Torre, all of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Industry. Lic. Flores and Dr. Shahan are ex officio members of the Board.

U. S. Government Makes $9,000,000 Available

On March 21, the House of Representatives Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations conducted a hearing on a budget estimate of $9,000,000 for the eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak. This was the amount that had been recommended by Mexican and United States conferees, as the United States share of the expenses up to June 30, 1947. Testimony by Department of Agriculture officials at the hearing, included the basis for indemnities and other costs, and also data on the extent of control by the Mexican Government. Among other commitments the Mexican Government is to furnish about 25,000 troops for the campaign, largely to maintain quarantines.

On March 24, the Senate Committee on Appropriations held a hearing on the same measure at which representatives of commercial livestock interests as well as Department officials testified. According to data presented, the value of the livestock industry of the United States is approximately 15 times that of Mexico. Both houses of Congress voted favorably on the measures (House Joint Resolution 154), and President Truman approved the legislation on March 27.

Secretary Makes Report to Congress

The enabling act (Public Law 8, 80th Congress, approved February 28, 1947) provides that the Secretary of Agriculture make a report to Congress every 30 days on developments in the cooperative campaign to suppress foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico. The first report for the 30-day period, which ended March 30, 1947, was duly prepared and transmitted in accordance with that provision. It contains six pages of factual text. Copies were sent to the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate.

Administrative Offices Established

Representatives of the Mexican and United States Governments met in Mexico City March 31 to April 2 inclusive, to develop final working plans of procedure and to establish an organization for conducting the necessary office work and field activities. Mexican officials were Lic. Oscar Flores, Dr. José Figueroa, Dr. Federico Rubio Lozano, and Ignacio de la Torre, all of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Industry. The United States was represented by N. E. Dodd, Dr. B. T. Simms, and Dr. M. S. Shahan, all of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Don Stoops, of the U. S. Embassy, Mexico City. Also present were special advisors on diplomatic, legal, financial, personnel, and other aspects of the problems under consideration. The discussions resulted in agreements on an administrative organization and on the functions of its various branches. The agency that establishes and controls policies is the Mexican-United States Commission for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The officers of this commission are the 6 members of a previously announced administrative board, 3 from each country. Reporting to this

office are several technical consultants. Directly under the central office are the Executive Offices, which have the active direction of the campaign. Those in charge are the director and co-director of the campaign.

Under the executive officers are 8 divisions as follows: (1) Legal, (2) audit and investigation, (3) administrative, (4) information, (5) inspection and diagnosis, (6) appraisal and disposal, (7) quarantine and disinfection, (8) re-stocking. All the foregoing units are to have their offices in Mexico City. The field work will be under the immediate supervision of several district offices in strategic locations. Details of administrative procedure, not covered by the general plans, are left to the director and co-director of the campaign. The personnel of all divisions will comprise qualified workers of both countries. The United States already has a small staff of key administrative workers in Mexico City. By the end of April the number of veterinarians is expected to reach about 25 and later will be increased to more than 100. Mexico plans to furnish about the same number.

Eradication Work Now In Progress

United States representatives in Mexico report that about 15,000 troops are on duty to prevent violation of quarantine regulations. Besides thus endeavoring to prevent further spread of the disease, Mexican authorities are also conducting active eradication work in areas where small centers of infection have appeared. In some of these areas the slaughter of affected animals, followed by their burial, is going forward at the rate of several hundred a day. Most livestock owners are reported to be accepting the eradication work in a cooperative spirit as being necessary for their ultimate welfare. A system of cash payments for the animals at the time of their condemnation, especially when only small numbers are involved, has been well received and appears to promote good cooperation.

Equipment and supplies to be furnished by the United States include heavy digging machinery, trucks, other vehicles, disinfectants, special clothing, and a large assortment of tools. The plans provide that as much of the material as possible be obtained from Army surpluses.

Supplementary Information

Since the issuance of Supplement No. 2 on March 11, the Department has issued, for public distribution, the following material relating to foot-and-mouth disease:

Text of Foot-and-Mouth Fiscal Recommendations Announced, press release, 2 p. March 19, 1947

Foot-and-Mouth Campaign Directors and Board Members Appointed, press release, 1 p. March 28, 1947

United States to Help Mexico Suppress Foot-and-Mouth Disease, news-picture service, March 18, 1947

Protective Measures Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Relation to the National Meat Supply, 3 p. April 1947

- - - -

THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO, APR. 8, 1947

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE